

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title:	Emerging Issues in the U.S. Organic Sector		
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB)	EIB		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Influential Scientific Information	
Agency:	Economic Research Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
	USDA		
Agency Contact:	Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov		
Subject of Review:	Consumer demand for organic products has grown rapidly over the last decade. As consumer demand for organic products has widened, organic retail sales have spread far beyond the narrow natural products market niche in urban areas and college towns into big-box stores and new regions across the country. While new producers have emerged to meet demand, mid-market participants (e.g., food processors) report that a supply squeeze has developed that is constraining firm growth and limiting growth in the overall sector. USDA's Economic Research Service and partner agencies initiated a number of new organic surveys and studies over the last few years to assess these developments. In this report, we examine recent ERS findings on the organic sector to gain a better economic understanding of the emerging issues in this rapidly growing and changing industry.		
Purpose of Review:	The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.		
Type of Review:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Panel Review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Reviewers
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):	
Timing of Review (Est.):	Start:	010/17/08	End: XX/XX/XX Completed: XX/XX/XX
Number of Reviewers:	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 or fewer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 to 10 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10
Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review:	Economists		
Reviewers selected by:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Designated Outside Organization
	Organization's Name:		
Opportunities for Public Comment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:			
How:			
When:			
Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No